International Conference on Tunas at Goa

3049. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently organized an International Conference on Tunas at Goa under the aegis to IOTC;

(b) the details of this meeting;

(c) the objective of this meeting;

(d) whether the interests of Indian tuna boat owners has been superseded at this meeting; and

(e) the steps proposed to review the benefits of participating in such international treaties where we have little stake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The Special Session of Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was held during 17-19 May, 2006 and the Tenth Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was held during 22-26 May, 2006 at Goa. The meetings were attended by representatives of the member countries of IOTC and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as well as the Regional Management Bodies including representatives of Association of Indian Fishery Industries.

(c) The Special Session of IOTC was convened to discuss measures for making IOTC more effective and efficient taking into consideration the role of FAO. The tenth regular session of IOTC was convened to discuss the important resolutions relating to conservation and management programmes of tuna species, limitation of fishing capacity, programme for trans-shipment by large scale fishing vessels, establishing a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) programme and on measures relating to prevention of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in IOTC area.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) India stands to gain by associating itself with such organizations. By our participation, we are able to protect our interests in the management and conservation of the hightly migratory and straddling fish stock.